

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
GOVERNOR



**KARYN POLITO**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**VIDEO: Governor Baker: "The Commonwealth is listening, and we will keep fighting for all of you."**

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**Governor Baker, Senate President Rosenburg, Speaker DeLeo, Mayor Walsh, Attorney General Healey**

**Grand Staircase, Massachusetts State House**  
**March 14, 2016**

**BOSTON** – Yesterday, [Governor Charlie Baker signed landmark legislation into law to address the deadly opioid and heroin epidemic](#) plaguing the Commonwealth and was joined by a robust group including Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Attorney General Maura Healey, and Mayor Marty Walsh, among others. The bill, titled *An Act relative to substance use, treatment, education and prevention*, passed with unanimous votes in both legislative chambers and includes numerous recommendations from the Governor’s opioid working group, including prevention education for students and doctors, and the first law in the nation to establish a seven day limit on first-time opioid prescriptions.

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**Transcription:**

GOVERNOR BAKER: “I want to thank you all for sharing your stories. May today’s bill passage signal to you that the Commonwealth is listening, and we will keep fighting for all of you.”

MAYOR WALSH: “One of my first conversations with the governor was about addiction and recovery. We spoke about, ‘How do we battle this issue?’ Because whether it’s Dorchester or Swampscott or Western Mass, wherever it is in Massachusetts, it doesn’t matter. It goes back to being a family disease. And he said ‘I’m gonna be bold here and I’m gonna take some chances,’ he said, ‘will you stand with me?’ And I said ‘absolutely, governor.’ And then he turned to the Attorney General, he said ‘will you stand with me?’ And she said ‘absolutely, governor.’”

SENATE PRESIDENT ROSENBERG: “I’m proud that here in Massachusetts we’ve turned a very big corner. This problem used to be seen as a crime. It’s now understood to be a disease.”

SPEAKER DELEO: “I’m heartened that this legislation builds off of last year’s landmark substance addiction law, which I’ve heard firsthand has saved lives, and that’s an incredibly powerful thing.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL HEALEY: “I recognize, we all recognize that this legislation will not bring your loved ones back. But I want you to know, and I hope that you find some measure and comfort knowing that today there is legislation that is going to change the course for other families.”

GOVERNOR BAKER: "Our administration will continue implementing recommendations from our Working Group, and finding new ways to pursue treatment, recovery and education for all. Thank you very much."

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